

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ADS DECON DECEMBER 1976

SUBJECT: SOVIET REVIEW OF US PERFORMING ARTS

REF: STATE 205960

1. YELISEYEV, DEP. DIRECTOR GOSK, REPORTED THE FOLLOWING TO DIRECTUR CU/ARTS AS HE PREPARED TO LEAVE WASHINGTON AFTER A THREE WEEK STAY.

1.A. DANCE: REGRETTED PRESS OF WORK MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO REVIEW PAUL TAYLOR AND MURRAY LOUIS. FOUND NIKOLAIS VERY INTERESTING BUT MUST DISCUSS IN MOSCOW PRIOR TO DECISION. YELISEYEV SAID THAT THE SOVDEL FOR THE OCTOBER NEGOTIATIONS WOULD INCLUDE SPECIALIST WHO COULD REVIEW DANCE COMPANIES. IT IS HOPED THAT EMB CAN VERIFY AND GET GOSK COMMITMENT TO TRAVEL U.S. AS NECESSARY TO VIEW POTENTIAL GROUPS FOR THE FUTURE PROGRAM SO THAT GOSK CAN MAKE RAPID DECISIONS. ADVISE.

1.B. ROCK: NEIL DIAMOND BEST OF GROUPS SEEN. WILL DISCUSS WHETHER TO INVITE IN 77 OR 78. JANIS IAN AND NITTY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GRITTY DIRT BAND NOT LEVEL GOSK WOULD LIKE. FYI. DIAMOND

MANAGEMENT HASN'T GONE BEHOND PASSIVE INTEREST YET BUT
CU/ARTS WILL PURSUE. NITTY GRITTY WHICH WE BELIEVE WOULD

BE POPULAR WITH SOVS MAY HAVE BEEN DISTORTED IN LESHAKOV'S
EYES BY HEAVY CLOUD OF POT SMOKE THROWN UP BY AUDIENCE.
END FYI. WE WOULD HOPE TO REOPEN THE ISSUE LATER.
YELISEYEV WOULD LIKE TO SEE OTHER GROUPS AND SEEMED DIS-
APPOINTED WHEN TOLD THAT PAUL MCCARTNEY WAS UK CITIZEN SO
COULD NOT BE PART OF EXCHANGE.

1.C. ROY CLARK: WILL CONSIDER BRINGING IN ABOVE QUOTA
AND INFORM HESS OF PROGRESS.

1.D. OTHERS: ASKED IF THEY COULD INVITE ANDY WILLIAMS
AND DIANA ROSS WITHIN QUOTA. WE TOLD HIM THAT WHILE WE
KNEW STARS WE WERE NOT FAMILIAR WITH PRESENT ACT SO
COULD NOT CONSIDER YET. FYI. WHILE DEPT WILL CONSIDER
THEM WE ARE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC UNLESS THE TOTAL PACKAGE
HAS UNUSUAL CONTENT. ROSS MANAGEMENT HAS SOME ROLE IN
LAS VEGAS FILMING OF RUSSIAN FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS AND
MAY HAVE A CONTINUING INTEREST. END FYI.

2. IF SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT YELISEYEV MAY HAVE OVER-
STATED OR OVER-ESTIMATED HIS DECISION CAPACITY IN
SEVERAL INSTANCES REPORTED ABOVE. IF NOT HE HAS AN
UNUSUAL AMOUNT OF AUTHORITY IN A SENSITIVE FIELD. HE
HAS ALSO BEEN GRACIOUS AND RELATIVELY COOPERATIVE IN HIS
DEALINGS. KISSINGER

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